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Subsection 4.1.3 <b>Sewage-Community and Onsite</b> for Licensed Group Child Care Homes, Licensed Child Care Centers and License-Exempt Child Care Facilities	Revised May 2008

## **SEWAGE-Community and Onsite**

### **Community**

Community systems are central collection sewage disposal systems operated by local authorities and private companies. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates these systems. Community sewage disposal systems pipe the wastewater to an off-site location for treatment. Examples of these systems are large city sewage treatment plants, 3-celled lagoons, and aeration plants for small cities or subdivisions. Any sewage disposal system with surfacing or improperly treated sewage that is accessible to the children is prohibited. If the problem is blocked wastewater drain lines on the child care property, the lines shall be repaired immediately. Broken or clogged lines leading to main sewage lines should be reported to the local authorities. Temporary emergency procedures shall be implemented if the malfunctioning lines create a hazard to the children. To implement emergency procedures, contact your BERL EPHS III.

### **On-Site**

Two categories of on-site systems exist-- those regulated by DNR and systems regulated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

#### **On-site Sewage Systems Regulated by DNR:**

**The following are examples of on-site sewage disposal systems regulated by DNR (Note that this list is not all-inclusive):**

- Group homes or centers that use a lagoon as a sewage disposal system.
- Lagoons shared by more than one home or building.
- Subsurface absorption systems with a daily flow of more than three thousand gallons.
- Discharging sand filters.

These systems must have an operating permit issued by DNR. If the owner/operator does not have a valid permit, or if major deficiencies of the system are observed at the time of the inspection, mark this section out of compliance and note on the inspection form that DNR will evaluate the sewage system. Then complete the sanitation inspection to determine compliance with the remaining sanitation requirements. Contact the BERL EPHS III as soon as possible to discuss the situation. It may be that a variance or short-term license can be granted if the system does not present a hazard to the children in care. The BERL EPHS III will notify the appropriate DNR Regional office for evaluation of the septic system.

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**On-site Sewage Systems Regulated by DHSS (note that this list is not all-inclusive):**

- Subsurface absorption systems with a daily flow of three thousand gallons or less.
- Subsurface absorption systems must be constructed properly and functioning properly.

**Meets local requirements.**

All non-discharging on-site sewage systems must comply with all applicable local codes. If the system is regulated under local codes, mark an “X” in this section if the system does not comply.

**Reason**

Malfunctioning septic systems can spread disease and are a hazard to the children in care. Sewage, if not treated and properly contained, can contaminate drinking water supplies. Pets may track through the sewage and then jump up on the children. If close to the area, malfunctioning sewage systems can contaminate play equipment such as balls.

**Correction Time Frames**

Facilities with plumbing that is nonfunctional in the house cannot operate. Facilities that have sewage surfacing in or around the play area cannot let the children play in the area and must have the system fixed within thirty (30) days. Systems that do not pose a direct hazard to the children may have several months to repair the system. Correction time frame depends on the time of year and the condition of the soil. Time variances or short-term licenses can be granted if the local inspector and the BERL EPHS III approve a plan of action. Temporary safety measures may be required to reduce exposure to children or children’s items until system is repaired. Variance requests to allow systems to permanently malfunction will not be approved.